

Choose a Computation Method

R 4-7

Depending on the type of problem, you can use different methods to find the solution. Your goal should be to use the most accurate and efficient method. The different choices are:

Mental Math Think: Are the numbers easy to work with? If there are fractions, is there already a common denominator? Will an estimate solve the problem?

Example: Find $4\frac{1}{5} + 2\frac{2}{5}$.

Paper and Pencil Think: Can I easily convert the fractions to a common denominator? Are the calculations fairly straightforward?

Example: Find $6\frac{1}{4} - 2\frac{1}{2}$.

Calculator Think: Are there many steps needed to find the solution? Would using pencil and paper take too long? Would the numbers be too cumbersome?

Example: Find $3\frac{2}{12} + 4\frac{1}{3} + 9\frac{3}{4} + 7\frac{2}{6}$.

Find each sum or difference. Tell which computation method you used.

1. $8\frac{4}{5} - 1\frac{2}{5} =$ _____

2. $\frac{11}{16} + 4\frac{15}{32} =$ _____

3. $14 - 12\frac{5}{9} + \frac{2}{3} =$ _____

4. $3\frac{9}{16} - 2 =$ _____

5. $7\frac{1}{3} + 7\frac{8}{14} =$ _____

6. $2\frac{1}{9} + 2\frac{1}{9} =$ _____

7. A dog had three puppies. One puppy weighed $2\frac{1}{8}$ lb, one weighed $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb, and the third weighed 3 lb. What is the combined weight of the puppies? What method did you use?

8. **Writing in Math** Why would it be faster to use mental math rather than a calculator to find $4\frac{1}{14} + 2\frac{2}{7}$? Explain.
